

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03304 101512Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6086
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
WMCONSUL JERUSALEM 8919

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LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, SY, US, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON CARTER-ASAD MEETING

1. ISRAELI PRESS MOSTLY RELIED ON NEWS AGENCIES FOR REPORTING OF THE CARTER-ASAD MEETING IN GENEVA MAY 9. HEADLINES ARE DEVOTED TO THE TWO LEADERS' DISCUSSION OF BUFFER ZONES, WHICH, ACCORDING TO ASAD, MUST BE ON BOTH SIDES OF ISRAEL'S PRE-1967 LINES. PRESIDENT CARTER RAISED (WITHOUT RESPONSE FROM ASAD) HIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN "DEFENSE LINES" AND "POLITICAL BORDERS," WHILE ASAD PRESENTED AN ARAB CONSENSUS PLAN FOR CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN ARAB STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP.

2. IN ADDITION TO AGENCY REPORTS, A HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT IN GENEVA REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S REITERATION
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03304 101512Z POSS DUPE

OF THE NEED FOR A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CLARIFIED BY A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE U.S. ENTOURAGE. THIS OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT YET COMMITTED ITSELF TO A PARACTICAL SOLUTION ON THE HOMELAND ISSUE--WHETHER A STATE SEPARATE FROM JORDAN OR PART OF A JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN STATE. THE SENIOR OFFICIAL ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR A SPEEDY

SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, STATING THAT IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CANNOT TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO FIND SOME SORT OF SUBSTITUTE.

3. COMMENTING ON THE CARTER-ASAD TALKS, YEDIOT AHARONOT'S GUINEY SAID THAT ASAD WAS PLEASED WITH CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND HIS DECLARATION THAT SECURITY ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS COULD BE ASSURED BY OBSERVER OUTPOSTS ONLY, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ELECTRONIC INSTALLATIONS. CARTER'S STATEMENT IS A RETREAT FROM HIS EARLIER SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, ACCORDING TO GUINEY, WHO ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WILL TELL SECRETARY VANCE WHEN THEY MEET TOMORROW THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN DEFENSIBLE AND POLITICAL BORDERS AND THAT THE POLITICAL OBRDERS ON THE GOLAN MUST BE DEFENSIBLE--AS MUST ALL THE OTHERS. THERE IS, GUINEY CONCEDED, ONLY A SMALL CHANCE THAT THE AMZRICANS WILL ACCEPT THIS VIEWPOINT.

4. COMMENT: AT THE CONCLUSION OF KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT VISIT TO WASINGTON, THE LOCAL PRESS PLAYED UP INTER-ARAB DIFFERENCES OVER PALESTINIAN ISSUES AND ANTICIPATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD REALLY HAVE HIS EYES OPENED WHEN HE SAW FIRST-HAND THE GAPS SEPARATING ASAD AND SADAT. IN ITS EARLY REACTION TO THE CARTER-ASAD MEETING, HOWEVER, THE PRESS HAS NOT STRESSED INTER-ARAB DISAGREEMENT. WE EXPECT THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL WANT TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THE "ARAB CONSENSUS PLAN" (FOR A PALESTINIAN ARAB STATE) WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03304 101512Z POSS DUPE

ASAD REPORTEDLY PRESENTED TO CARTER.
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